

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of using a plurality of domestic ungulates to precondition a foraging area to enhance the attractiveness of the foraging area to a plurality of wild ungulates, the method comprising:

selecting the foraging area to be preconditioned;

selecting a target period during which the plurality of wild ungulates is to use the foraging area once it has been preconditioned;

selecting a preconditioning period during which the plurality of domesticated ungulates precondition the foraging area for use by the wild ungulates during the target period; and

preconditioning the foraging area by providing at least one highly-palatable, portable, self-limiting, animal feed supplement in the foraging area to attract the plurality of domesticated ungulates to the foraging area and to increase a length of stay of the plurality of domesticated ungulates in the foraging area, wherein the domesticated ungulates are attracted to the foraging area by the supplement.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs any time within approximately summer and the target period occurs any time within approximately the following spring.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein a second preconditioning period occurs any time within approximately fall.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs any time within the interval from approximately June 1 through approximately August 31 and the target period occurs any time within the following interval from approximately April 1 through approximately June 30.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein a second preconditioning period occurs any time within the interval from approximately September 1 through approximately November 30.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs during an interval from approximately June 1 through August 31 of a first year and the target period occurs during an interval from approximately April 1 through June 30 of a second, successive year.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring the extent of the preconditioning of the foraging area and, once the foraging area has been utilized to a predetermined extent of grazing, removing the supplement from the foraging area.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the predetermined extent of grazing is lightly grazed.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein the predetermined extent of grazing is moderately grazed.
10. The method of claim 7 wherein the predetermined extent of grazing is heavily grazed.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the wild ungulate animals are elk and the domestic ungulate animals are bovine.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein the animal feed supplement is provided in the foraging area at a weekly rate of approximately 0.7 to approximately 10.5 pounds of supplement per bovine animal unit.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the animal feed supplement is a liquid provided in the foraging area at a weekly rate of approximately 10.5 to approximately 35 pounds of supplement per bovine animal unit.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein the animal feed supplement is a liquid provided in the foraging area at a weekly rate of approximately 5.2 to approximately 17.5 pounds of dry matter supplement per bovine animal unit.
15. The method of claim 11 wherein the animal feed supplement is a pressed or chemically hardened block provided in the foraging area at a weekly rate of approximately 1.4 to approximately 31 pounds of dry matter supplement per bovine animal unit.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs any time within approximately summer and the target period occurs any time after the preconditioning period.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs any time within approximately fall and the target period occurs any time after the preconditioning period.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the preconditioning period occurs any time after the forage in the foraging area has essentially cured and the target period occurs subsequent to the preconditioning period when the forage in the foraging area is essentially green.
19. A method of modifying a wild ungulate foraging distribution, the method comprising:
- selecting a foraging area to be encompassed by the wild ungulate foraging distribution;
 - supplying in the foraging area an ingestible adapted to be ingested by a preconditioning ungulate.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the ingestible attracts the preconditioning ungulate to the foraging area.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein the ingestible increases the dwell time of the preconditioning ungulate within the foraging area.
22. The method of claim 21 wherein the ingestible is a highly palatable, portable, self-limiting, animal feed supplement.
23. The method of claim 21 wherein the ingestible is selected from the group consisting of chemical blocks, protein blocks, pressed blocks and liquid feed supplements.
24. The method of claim 19 wherein the ingestible is selected from the group consisting of water, livestock cake, beet pulp, grain, silage, hay, and straw.
25. The method of claim 19 wherein the ingestible is selected from the group consisting of mineral blocks, granular mineral supplements, salt blocks, and granular salt supplements.
26. The method of claim 19 further comprising removing the ingestible once the foraging area has been grazed to a predetermined level.
27. The method of claim 26 wherein the predetermined level of grazing is lightly grazed.
28. The method of claim 26 wherein the predetermined level of grazing is moderately grazed.
29. The method of claim 26 wherein the predetermined level of grazing is heavily grazed.
30. The method of claim 19 wherein the preconditioning ungulates are selected from the group consisting of cattle, sheep, goats, lamas, and horses.

31. The method of claim 19 wherein the preconditioning ungulates are selected from the group consisting of elk, deer, bison, and wild horses.

32. A preconditioned foraging area enhanced by a domestic ungulate to be more attractive to a wild ungulate, the foraging area comprising:

a foraging area; and

a highly palatable, portable, self-limiting, animal feed supplement located in the foraging area,

wherein the animal feed supplement is adapted to attract the domestic ungulate to the foraging area and to increase a length of stay of the domestic ungulate in the foraging area.

33. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 32, further comprising a domestic ungulate located within the foraging area.

34. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 33, wherein the domestic ungulate is selected from the group consisting of cattle, sheep, goats, lamas, and horses.

35. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 33, wherein the domestic ungulate is a wild ungulate owned by an entity and is selected from the group consisting of deer, elk, and bison.

36. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 33, wherein the domestic ungulate is a bovine.

37. A preconditioned forage area attractive to wild ungulates as a source of young growth forage, said preconditioned forage area having a predetermined grazing level produced by providing at least one highly palatable, portable, self-limiting, animal feed supplement in the preconditioned foraging area, the preconditioned foraging area being accessible to wild ungulates but distinct from foraging areas habitually frequented by such wild ungulates, the at least one animal feed supplement being provided in the preconditioned foraging area in advance of a forage growing season and for a sufficient preconditioning foraging period by a plurality of domesticated ungulates, the at least one animal feed supplement being adapted to attract the plurality of domesticated ungulates to the preconditioned foraging area and to increase a length of stay of the domestic ungulates in the preconditioned foraging area.

38. The preconditioned forage area of claim 37, wherein the predetermined grazing level is lightly grazed.

39. The preconditioned forage area of claim 37, wherein the predetermined grazing level is moderately grazed.

40. The preconditioned forage area of claim 37, wherein the predetermined grazing level is heavily grazed.

41. The preconditioned forage area of claim 37, wherein the plurality of domesticated ungulates are selected from the group consisting of cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, and horses.

42. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 37, wherein the plurality of domesticated ungulates are wild ungulates owned by an entity and are selected from the group consisting of deer, elk, and bison.

43. The preconditioned foraging area of claim 37, wherein the plurality of domesticated ungulates are bovine.